

REMARKS

The indication that claims 86-89 have been allowed is acknowledged with thanks.

Claims 43, 45, and 54 were rejected as unpatentable over NAKAMURA et al. 6,372,547 in view of HAYASAKA et al. 6,809,421 and BABA 6,016,013. Claims 46-49 were rejected further in view of NAKATANI et al. 6,038,133 and claims 50-53 were rejected further in view of KITAZAWA et al. 6, 057,600. Claim 43 has been amended and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended claim 43 provides, among other features, that the external electrode has a diameter smaller than the corresponding hole in the supporting plate so as to define a space between the electrode and the internal periphery of the hole at a surface of the supporting plate opposite the buffer layer, where the sealing resin is in the space surrounding and supporting the electrode. This feature is discussed at page 213 in the paragraphs relating to Figures 25T and 25U. As shown therein, the external electrode 13 has a diameter smaller than the corresponding hole 52 in the supporting plate 51 so as to define a space between the electrode 13 and the internal periphery of the hole 52 at the bottom surface of the plate 51, where the sealing resin 54 is in the space surrounding and supporting the electrode 13.

The Official Action indicates that (outer) bonding layer 55 corresponds to the claimed supporting plate (figure 7 of NAKAMURA et al.) and that the external electrode is element 54 (solder) in Figure 6D. However, the external electrode 54 is the same size as, not smaller than, the hole in the outer bonding layer 55 and does not define the claimed space between the electrode and the internal periphery of the hole at the surface of the bonding layer opposite the buffer layer 20. The reference also does not disclose or suggest that this space have a sealing resin therein that surrounds the electrode. The other references have been carefully considered and do not make up for this shortcoming.

Accordingly, claims 43 and 45-54 avoid the rejections under §103.

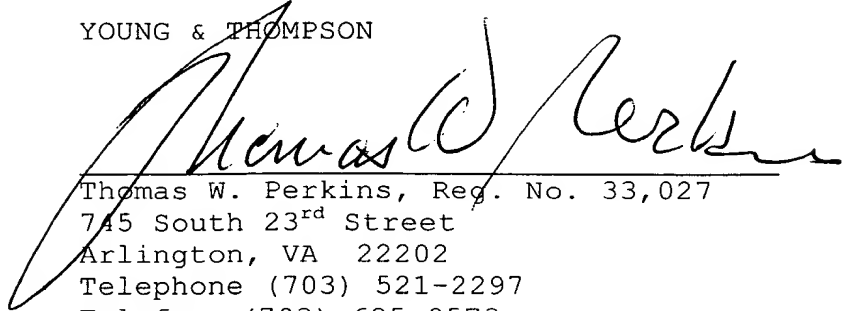
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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